

National Organic Standards Board Meeting, May 13-14, 2003, Austin, Texas

Crops Committee Recommendation: Tetrahydrofurfuryl Alcohol

Introduction: Tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol (THFA) was petitioned to be added to section 205.601 "synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production". More specifically, the crops committee examined the substance in relation to 205.601(m)(2), "as a synthetic inert ingredients as classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for used with nonsynthetic substances listed in this section and used as an active pesticide ingredient in accordance with any limitations on the use of such substances.

Background: The crops committee reviewed the information provided by the petitioner as well as, the TAP review by UC SAREUP and opinions of three outside reviewers. The petitioner withheld information that they deemed Confidential Business Information (CBI) which led the NOP to evaluate the product in relationship to the seven OFPA criteria. The NOP stated that the CBI "is not germane to the evaluation of THFA in regard to the seven OFPA criteria". The crops committee has submitted requests for more information from the NOP in regards to the OFPA criteria:

- 1) The potential of the substance for detrimental chemical interactions with other materials used in organic farming systems. We agree with reviewer 1 that it is impossible to make a good prediction of detrimental chemical interactions without knowing the pesticide formulation THFA is used or how the specific pesticide(s) would be used.
- 2) Criteria 6: The alternatives to using the substances in terms of practices or other available materials. Without knowing the pesticide formulation, pests, or crops it is impossible to determine if alternative brand name products exist that would be compliant with the existing rule i.e. already are formulated with List 4 inert(s).

The crops committee concurs with the TAP review in that Evaluation against OFPA Criteria 1 and 6 in particular require specific information to determine the substance's potential for agroecosystem interactions. The committee found the material to be synthetic by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Recommendation: The crop committee recommends deferral of Tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol until adequate is received in regards to OFPA criteria 1 and 6.

Committee vote:

5 favor

0 against

0 abstain